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Carter confers with Waldheim

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (R). — President Carter conferred today with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim on international problems, including the Middle East and Cyprus. Mr. Carter, who described Mr. Waldheim as "the first leader of the world," said the United States and the secretary general would cooperate more closely this year than in the past. Also present at the White House talks was Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who visited Israel and Arab countries this month soon after a trip to the area by Mr. Waldheim. Cyprus was on the agenda because of Mr. Waldheim's recent visit to the east Mediterranean island and the current tension of former U.S. Defence Secretary Clark Clifford in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

6 die in Moscow hotel blaze

MOSCOW, Feb. 25 (R). — At least six people were killed and 12 seriously injured in a fire tonight in the 6,000-bed Hotel Rossiya in central Moscow, rescue workers said. A fleet of ambulances ferried away the victims. The nationalities of the dead have not been announced. Flames gushed from the windows of the five uppermost floors in the 11-storey north wing of the vast rectangular building not far from the Kremlin and Red Square. Shortly before midnight the hundreds of firemen appeared to be getting the flames under control on the outside of the building. Rescue workers said there were many people trapped inside.

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Clifford: Cypriot accord possible this year

SIA, Feb. 25 (R). — Ambassador special envoy Clark Clifford said today he thought a settlement this year is a definite possibility. Clifford said he will lead a press conference at the end of his mission which also includes Athens and Ankara. Mr. Clifford said there are "any number of factors" which seemed to point to a settlement of the problem in the next month and a feeling had been encountered on both sides that the time had come for constructive suggestions. "I think this is a good time to think about it," Mr. Clifford said. "I think there is a possibility that one can be reached in 1977." Clifford said he will meet today Mr. Clifford vice president of the so-called "green line" in Nicosia to talk to Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and later a farewell dinner for the Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios which will mark a second round of talks. Clifford will fly tomorrow to Athens where he will meet with British officials. Clifford was about criticism by Cyprus media of what was American interference in Cyprus issue. Mr. Clifford said he had been forthright on this issue. He stressed that he had been on the Turkish side of the issue because Mr. Denktaş had been forthright on this issue.

"We are only operating within the context and at the invitation of the parties directly concerned," he said. "We offer our good offices in the event that the parties here feel we can be useful." Mr. Clifford added: "The U.S. will not take an active role out front. We wish to remain in the background." Mr. Denktaş, who sat next to Mr. Clifford during the brief news conference, said their talks had been cordial and sincere. "We appreciate the impartial, understanding interest Mr. Clifford has shown," he said. He added that he was sure that Mr. Clifford's report to President Carter would reflect the fact that the Cyprus conflict was not just two and a half years old -- a reference to the Turkish invasion of July 1974 -- but dated back 13 years. In London, the Foreign Office announced that Mr. Clifford will have talks with the new British Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, there on Monday. Mr. Clifford will brief Dr. Owen on his recent discussions in Athens, Ankara and Nicosia. He will return to Washington to report to the Carter administration on Tuesday. Britain and the eight other European Common Market countries believe that a just and lasting Cyprus solution should preserve the territorial integrity of the Mediterranean island republic. It should provide conditions which guarantee the viability and security of the Cypriot state and of both the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities, the nine said.



Greek Foreign Minister Dimitrios Bisiolos (left), accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, leads his delegation past a guard of honour at Amman airport Friday. (JNA photo).

Greek F.M. arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Agencies) — Greek Foreign Minister Dimitrios Bisiolos arrived here Friday from Damascus on a three-day official visit to Jordan. Officials said his talks with Jordanian leaders were expected to cover the Middle East situation, the Cypriot problem and bilateral relations. He will meet Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Prime Minister Mu-

dar Badran and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim. Welcoming the Greek foreign minister and his wife, Mr. Badran stressed the strong relations between Greece and Jordan, which are characterised by Greece's non-recognition of Israel to this day. He said the Greek attitude

stems from a just and independent view of the Middle East situation. In a statement to reporters, Mr. Bisiolos said his visit underlines his country's support of Arab issues and its policy of non-recognition of Israel until complete peace is achieved in the region. "We have upheld the Arab issue since 1948," he added.

Spanish opposition presses for Communist legalisation

MADRID, Feb. 25 (Agencies). — Spanish opposition leaders have warned the government that its delay in deciding whether the Communist Party should be made legal could jeopardise cooperation in the run-up to general elections later this year. Criticising government moves in the past three days, a committee of 10 opposition leaders also attacked the authorities for recognising a socialist splinter group which is disowned by the country's main Socialist Party. The group of 10, ranging from Communists to Christian Democrats, said last night that opposition with the government that has produced recent negotiations between Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and opposition moderates. On Tuesday the government asked the Supreme Court to decide whether the aims of the Communist Party fell within Spanish law, enabling it to attain legal status after nearly 40 years as an underground movement.

The opposition committee insisted last night that all parties had to be made legal if parliamentary elections were to be truly democratic. According to the Madrid newspaper Ya today, the Spanish Supreme Court has decided it is not qualified to decide whether the Communist Party can be given legal status. The newspaper, which did not quote a source, said the court had decided to send the documents back to the government to avoid having to take a political decision. In a move which emphasised just how much the Communists have come out of hiding, party leader Santiago Carrillo said yesterday that he would hold a "Eurocommunist summit" with French Communist leader Georges Marchais and Italian party chief Enrico Berlinguer next month. Negotiations between the go-

vernment and the opposition have been further threatened by the legalisation of a break-away branch of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE). The mainstream PSOE, which gained legal status last week, called the government's decision to recognise the splinter group "a declaration of war" and immediately withdrew from talks with Senor Suarez. The PSOE split into two parties at a congress in Toulouse in 1972. The breakaway group is violently anti-Communist and has condemned the main party's links with the Communists. Last night the committee of 10 criticised the legalisation of the splinter group and expressed the hope that PSOE leaders would reconsider their decision to pull out of talks with the government.

OAU Ministerial Council to summon African summit

LOME, Feb. 25 (R). — The Ministerial Council of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) decided today to summon an emergency summit meeting of African leaders to discuss last month's mercenary invasion of Benin, an OAU official announced. The announcement was made at a news conference after the foreign ministers considered a report by a special seven-nation commission set up at the request of Benin President Mathieu Kerekou. OAU Assistant Secretary General Peter Onu declined to give details of the commission report on the Jan. 16 incident or an earlier one he personally prepared on the invasion of the West African country. But conference sources said both reports contained allegations that Guinean, Beninois and white mercenaries had participated in the invasion and

used facilities in Morocco and Gabon. Mr. Onu said the OAU commission would continue investigations of the incident, and its report -- including a taped confession by a captured mercenary claiming to be a Guinean national -- would be presented to the emergency summit meeting. Morocco has meanwhile decided to "suspend all participation" in the Organisation of African Unity in protest against allegations that Morocco was involved in the attempted coup in Benin, it was announced officially in Rabat today. Mr. Onu told the news conference "the Ministerial Council considered the event of Jan. 16 as very grave and of great importance, not only to Benin but to the whole world at large." He said it was time for more positive action to be taken to contain the activities of mercenaries.

body and the continued presence of American troops in Southern Asia. "Still committing crimes there." The U.S. has the highest record of assassination including those of their president and religious leaders, he went on. Why did the United Nations not inquire into the activities of the CIA, notably the murder of African leaders, such as Patrice Lumumba, and coups d'etat, he asked. "As you have just taken the presidency of the U.S. you should not be blinded by those who would like to take away your presidency even before you have seen all the rooms in the White House," he added. In Washington, it was reported that President Carter was watching closely and "with concern" the situation in Uganda following President Amin's decision to summon American nationals to a meeting with him in Kampala. A White House spokesman said the United States had been in touch with the West German government, which represents U.S. interests in Uganda. The spokesman said West Germany had assured Washington it would do everything possible to protect American interests. The spokesman confirmed that there were about 240 Americans, mostly missionaries, in Uganda at present. Meanwhile the State Department today summoned Ugandan Charge d'Affaires Mahmud Musa, and asked for complete report on the position of Americans in Uganda.

Soviet cosmonauts land after 18 days in space

MOSCOW, Feb. 25 (R). — Two Russian cosmonauts landed safely today on the freezing plains of Soviet Central Asia after an unexpectedly short stint of just over two weeks in the Saljut-5 space laboratory. Mission commander Viktor Gorbachko and flight engineer Yuri Glazkov landed amid strong winds, low cloud and sub-zero temperatures 36 kms. north-west of Arkalyk in northern Kazakhstan, TASS news agency said. A recovery team reached the descent capsule of the Soyuz-

24 ferry vehicle despite the poor weather and found both men feeling fine, TASS said. The two began return preparations two days ago, and Western observers had expected a landing chief Vladimir Shatalov hinted during a televised interview today that the bad weather might have caused a delay. The men spent 18 days in space, 16 of them on board Saljut-5 carrying out scientific research.

per said that Professor Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change party, -- the latest challenger to the Labour Party -- has attracted most of its support from the hawkish side of the Labour Party -- a well as some from the rightwing opposition Likud. "At present it looks unlikely that his party and Labour will have a mandate between them in any case, so doubtless the choice will lie between a renewal of the coalition with the National Religious Party and a completely new government in which Likud would replace Labour as the dominant element. Neither solution holds out much hope for peace. Over that matter, the Labour Party itself, even when speaking of territorial concessions on all fronts, is certainly not thinking of the kind of concessions which an American leader could hope to sell to the Arabs even in the present frame of mind -- that is the return to the pre-1967 frontiers with the 'insubstantial modifications' mentioned by Mr. Rogers in 1969," the Times concluded.

Israel's Labour Party defeats Dayan's platform amendment

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (R). — Israel's ruling Labour Party agreed that territorial compromises should be made with Egypt, Syria and Jordan as it wound up its pre-electoral convention here today. After a close vote, the party also announced that Jewish settlement on the occupied West Bank should be limited to specific areas stipulated by the government for security reasons. These were two key points of an electoral platform adopted at the end of the convention. An amendment deleting references to territorial compromises and limitations on Jewish settlement was defeated by 659 votes to 606. The amendment was proposed by former Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, a close friend of the hawkish Mr. Shimon Peres, who earlier in the convention narrowly failed to unseat Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as party leader. Mr. Rabin told delegates today that the Labour Party must fight parliamentary elections scheduled for May 17 on its willingness for territorial compromise. "This is our main difference with the Likud (centre-right opposition) Party and will be the main issue of the election," he said. The convention also agreed that if Lebanon maintained peace along its borders, Israel would "respect the integrity of Lebanon throughout its entire area."

Mr. Rabin charged that it was the unwillingness of the Arabs to accept Israel that lay at the heart of the Middle East conflict, and not the Palestinian issue. "The Palestinian issue should be solved through Jordan... the Geneva negotiations should be discussed by states, not delegations," he said. Mr. Dayan, asked later if he thought Israel should hold on to the West Bank, told Israeli Radio: "That is not what I said. What I said was we should not do anything before we have a concrete proposal for a real peace with Jordan and/or the Palestinians. We should wait and see what they suggest."

"What we should not do just now, before there is any such proposal, is to declare that this (West Bank) area is not our homeland and to forbid Jews buying land or settling down there." "I do not think there is any chance to get peace with Egypt while we are in Sharm Al Sheikh (in Sinai), with Syria while we are in the Golan Heights, or with Jordan while we are implementing the Allon plan (for settlement of parts of the Jordan Valley)," Mr. Dayan said. "So we are really facing the alternative -- do we really want to stay there even if we do not get peace, or would we rather have peace and pull out from there? In my view we should prefer to stay there rather than have a written peace with the Arabs." Professor Shlomo Avineri, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, said the Palestinian problem should be solved in the context of negotiations with Jordan. An independent Palestinian West Bank state would not have the physical or economic capacity to solve the problems of Palestinians in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip or elsewhere, he claimed in a speech at an Engineers' Club luncheon. "Because of its weakness, a Palestinian state on the West Bank would be wide open to the infiltration of Soviet influence and would upset the delicate balance of forces in the Middle East," he alleged. Speaking at the opening of the political debate to formulate the party's election platform Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said last night Israel wo-

Algerians vote in first elections for 12 years

RS, Feb. 25 (R). — Millions of Algerians voted today in the first parliamentary election since President Houari Boumedienne came to power in a military-led coup nearly 12 years ago. Results are not expected to be known until tomorrow. Women account for about five per cent of the candidates. The poll is the fourth in the past eight months for Algeria's seven million voters. Observers said there appeared to be slightly less interest in it than in the presidential poll last December or, in two referendums held earlier last year. The 261-seat parliament, officially termed the Popular National Assembly, will not have power to censure the government or force its resignation. The new parliament, expected to hold its first session next week, will form part of a structure of state institutions which President Boumedienne has said will move the country from "revolutionary legitimacy" to "constitutional legitimacy."

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Lebanese await "clear statement" from U.S. on Israeli intentions in south Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 25 (AFP). — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros has asked the United States for a clear statement on its attitude to the situation in South Lebanon and a reply is expected in the next 48 hours, the newspapers Al Charq and Al Anwar reported today. They said Mr. Butros made the request when he met U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker here yesterday. There has been a mass exodus from the villages in the border region because of Israeli shelling and the advance of the rightwing "Lebanese forces" into the area, formerly controlled by the Palestinian-progressives. Informed sources said the United States through Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, offered Lebanon guarantees concerning south Lebanon. The Americans, the sources added, did not rule out the possibility that Israel "which has room to manoeuvre and a margin of autonomy" might try to force Lebanon and the United States to accept, certain "accomplished facts" in the border region which it would use as bargaining cards in any future negotiations on the Middle East crisis.

This was why the United States stressed that the Lebanese army must be rebuilt as soon as possible to take charge of security in the border area and remove any pretext for Israeli intervention, they said. Unconfirmed reports meanwhile spoke of a meeting at the Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and Mr. Pierre Gemayel, leader of the rightwing Phalangist Party. There was speculation that Mr. Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, might have attended the meeting. In a separate development, it was officially announced here that the Lebanese cabinet last night adopted a decree governing public loans to house owners to help them repair or reconstruct buildings damaged or destroyed during the 19-month of fighting. Saudi Ambassador Ali Al Sha'er told reporters that he handed President Sarkis a cheque for five million Lebanese pounds (about one million sterling) of aid for Islamic social welfare institutions as part of a general Saudi aid programme to Lebanon.

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Amin claims CIA, Zionists planning to overthrow him

BEIRUT, Feb. 25 (AFP). — An President Idi Amin dismissed U.S. criticism of human rights abuses in Uganda as "Zionist control of the news media for the 'sus-campaign' against him." In a lengthy message to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Amin blamed the CIA, and British intelligence as of involvement in attempts to overthrow him. He said "I know that the black race as well as many white races cannot be against a but Zionists. Jews who I the news media are the starting pressures." In a message, in which he referred to himself as "a black warrior in Africa" and in advised President Carter of his own house in order, broadcast by Kampala Radio, Amin said he was reacting to criticism of allegations of human rights abuses. "The U.S. government people should control Zionists and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) rather he other way around." President Amin was responsible for the ouster of Israeli forces from Uganda. Since his relations with Israel deteriorated while he has bridges with Libya's Premier Muammar Qadhafi. He said he was talking directly to President Carter, he said: "You the powers to tell Israel to do. You should therefore be like Field Marshal who is a black superpower-Africa."

"No country can force Uganda to be in its pocket," he went on. Referring to the 240 or so American citizens whom he has evoked to a meeting on Monday, President Amin said: "According to reports from Nairobi, 5,000 American marines are supposed to come and rescue American people in Uganda. This is not possible as Americans in Uganda are happy and accepted all over the country and Uganda has the strength to crush any invader," he said. He said he was sending to President Carter documents which would prove that Anglican Archbishop Janani Lumumba who was killed in Uganda last week did die in a car crash, as officially claimed. President Amin said that 16 people arrested following the discovery of a plot against the state admitted that the archbishop and the two cabinet ministers killed with him had figured in the plot. "They also revealed that the CIA, the British and the Israelis were also involved," President Amin said. He gave a list of "crimes" carried out by the "United States which, he said, were "worse than violation of human rights." These ranged from atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to racial discrimination and murder in the United States, he said. He referred specifically to the Bay of Pigs incident, U.S. bombing of Vietnam and Cam-

body and the continued presence of American troops in Southern Asia. "Still committing crimes there." The U.S. has the highest record of assassination including those of their president and religious leaders, he went on. Why did the United Nations not inquire into the activities of the CIA, notably the murder of African leaders, such as Patrice Lumumba, and coups d'etat, he asked. "As you have just taken the presidency of the U.S. you should not be blinded by those who would like to take away your presidency even before you have seen all the rooms in the White House," he added. In Washington, it was reported that President Carter was watching closely and "with concern" the situation in Uganda following President Amin's decision to summon American nationals to a meeting with him in Kampala. A White House spokesman said the United States had been in touch with the West German government, which represents U.S. interests in Uganda. The spokesman said West Germany had assured Washington it would do everything possible to protect American interests. The spokesman confirmed that there were about 240 Americans, mostly missionaries, in Uganda at present. Meanwhile the State Department today summoned Ugandan Charge d'Affaires Mahmud Musa, and asked for complete report on the position of Americans in Uganda.

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Leader's illness deals heavy blow to Indian opposition

NEW DELHI, Feb. 25 (R). — India's opposition suffered a blow today in the campaign for general elections when leading spokesman Jayaprakash Narayan, 74, was rushed to hospital with kidney trouble in Bombay. Doctors said the veteran pacifist reformer and campaigner against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party would have to cancel all engagements between now and elections beginning on March 16. Tall, white-haired Mr. Narayan, an old associate of the late Mahatma Gandhi, is known in India as "J.P." He had drawn huge crowds to rallies by the opposition Janata (People's) Party. He spent five months in solitary confinement under emergency laws imposed in 1975, after leading a mass campaign against Mrs. Gandhi. Doctors said his illness today was the result of complications in treatment he undergoes on a kidney machine and exhaustion.

He would be at least three weeks in hospital, they added. "I hope the people will understand my helplessness and excuse me for my inability to fulfill my touring and speaking engagements," Mr. Narayan said in a statement from Jas Ok Hospital in Bombay tonight. No other opposition leaders, including such figures as the steel former Deputy Premier Morardi Desai, could draw such crowds as the frail Mr. Narayan. Freed from jail on health grounds, he had lately taken to addressing the crowds from a chair. His meetings raised funds for the Janata Party, which is weak on finance and transport, from humble townsmen and villagers, for whose welfare he has devoted his energies since dropping out of active politics for a Gandhi-style rural progress campaign in 1973. A meeting he addressed in Jaipur last week collected 27,000 rupees (£1,800) mostly in coins of low denomination.

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9 parties unite in alliance to fight Bhutto in first election

In Pakistan nine parties have formed a National Alliance to fight Prime Minister Bhutto. Pakistan's election will be the first under a civilian government since independence 30 years ago.

KARACHI (Gemini). — Pakistan is in the grip of election fever — on radio and television, in the living rooms and on the streets. Public meetings, corner gatherings and debates are being held all over the country by the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA).

The big cities, like Karachi, Lahore and Feshawar, are bedecked with political banners and resounding with slogans. Newspapers are giving wide coverage to the political activities of both sides.

On March 7 the country will elect a new 200-member National Assembly on the basis of adult franchise to run its parliamentary system of government — the first general election held by a civilian government in Pakistan since the country attained independence from the British thirty years ago.

The last general election on

the principle of "one-man-one-vote" was organised by the military regime of General Yahya Khan in December 1970.

The PPP, headed by Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, won a majority in West Pakistan during the 1970 elections, but only came to power after the secession of the east wing (now Bangladesh).

(Bhutto steered the country out of a grave crisis, revived its economy and raised the nation's morale. In the process he introduced wide-ranging reforms, negotiated the return of 90,000 prisoners of war from India, and improved Pakistan's foreign relations with the super-powers and the oil-rich Muslim nations.

Now his election manifesto sets new economic targets for the nation. PPP leaders predict a thumping victory in the elections, but the opposition has been assured that the polls will be fair and free from malpractices.

With the filing of nomination papers and withdrawals completed, 16 PPP candidates have been declared elected unopposed. But some of these uncontested elections have been challenged by the opposition and petitions are pending before the Election Commission.

The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Justice Sajjad Jan, enjoys considerable authority and is known for his independence as a former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The main challenge to the PPP is posed by the newly-formed PNA, comprising nine opposition parties and groups varying in political hue from the pro-Islam right to moderate left. The alliance came into existence only after the announcement of the polling date in January.

The diverse elements of the PNA maintain their party identities and have formed the Alliance with the express purpose of defeating the PPP. The opposition is still not clear about a unified approach to the country's political and economic problems. And the Alliance has not so far produced its election manifesto.

Absurdity's loophole By Bassam Bishri

Idi come back, all is forgiven

I never really wanted to write about Field Marshal Idi Amin, the President of Uganda, because he is too much of an easy target for a column of this sort. He has a special knack of being in the news for precisely the kind of thing this column relishes in dwelling upon and, then, he is so huge that even the most carelessly thrown dart will always find its target in him. But write about Field Marshal Amin this time I must for he has outdone himself.

It's a commonplace to hear this huge boxer tell it to the world exactly as it is and you come to expect a cathartic laugh when ever he decides to comment on world affairs; for, unless you are the sort of person who takes himself too seriously — and, thus, takes almost everything else too seriously — you cannot but see that Field Marshal Amin has the gift of forcing back everything he comments upon into its proper human context.

When Mr. Amin tells us he is available as a candidate for the vacant post of king of Scotland the man is so crushingly to the point. Scotland is at last preparing itself for "independence" thanks to the devolution plans the British Labour government is proposing. Scotland has always been a monarchy — before, as well as after, incorporation in the British Kingdom; and Mr. Amin invites the bagpipe.

When Mr. Amin plays Dr. Henry Kissinger to enroll himself in a course of political sciences in a Ugandan university he proves to be in possession of superhuman insight. "Dear Henry", you see, has fooled everyone with his political magic but where is he now? Presumably Field Marshal Amin would have personally lectured the onetime shunter on the basics of politics and that, needless to say, is the surest way of success for any aspiring politician. For Mr. Amin is so in control of the politics of his country that any rebellion against him cannot sleep a night in peace — it is completely finished before the evening — and Mr. Amin, as he himself says, can easily leave Uganda for "six whole months" and still come back as president. That is an achievement no doubt.

So, ex-boxer Amin can always be relied on to provide the proper dimensions for anything he cares to speak about. You may have reservations about what he says, but in such a case the mistake is yours and not his. The man just cannot be wrong. In fact he is a genius without whose

pronouncements we would all lose our wits in this crazy mess of doubt and relative we've made the world into.

But Field Marshal Amin has disappointed his biggest fan — myself — of late. He entangled himself in a web of nasty occurrences and statements that allowed the most righteous and the most foolish to be able have a hearing when they point at him accusing finger.

For now, certain unspeakable sorts commanding an audience of interested listeners when they demand that Mr. Amin's presence in a forthcoming Commonwealth conference (common who?) be rejected. Certain types set themselves up as governors of the world morals are being reported worldwide when it declares that the "crimes" of President Amin shall not go without a clamour of retributive President Amin why did you thus? Why is you so let me down?

It would have been quite acceptable if nothing near an embarrassment if you arrested the Anglican Archbishop James Callaghan and sent him to court for complicity against your regime. In court you could give him a ten-year sentence, then cut it down to four, subtracted three of these, missed him only eight months if he behaved well in prison, and then just deported him from Uganda. After all Prime Minister Donald Lamont in Rhodesia and no one else would be it that Pope Paul has less influence in the world than Dr. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury?

But alas, Mr. Idi, you had to let that accented, pale-faced, sick man, Ian Smith be given this time and, with a sound of complete mathematics, steal the limelight from you and with one stroke do away, quietly, with the problem of his conspiring clergyman who you, so out of character, went and got you accused of personally murdering your own clergyman. You have failed me this time.

Now we'll have to bear with the clamour they're going to keep raising against you till they find another someone to jump on. I hope the Russians decide to murder one of their dissidents soon. That should be spiky enough to wet their moralising, self-righteous mouths to forget about you and turn their busybodies elsewhere.

Middle East, held about £6,000 million in British banks, roughly three times as much as the entire U.K. foreign reserves, the potential result could have been bankruptcy for Britain.

So to keep that money — the famous sterling balances — in the country Britain offered superb interest rates. Fifteen per cent was the standard bank rate for many months and short term money attracted a stupendous 22 per cent at one time.

Now, with the IMF loan plus the "safety net" plan which effectively removes any threat of a ruinous run on the pound, most bankers argue that interest rates should be allowed to fall — rapidly.

A stimulus is needed, they say, to encourage industry to expand. After all, who wants to borrow money at perhaps 18 per cent for investment in industry with its attendant risks and uncertain returns — equity investors certainly are limited to 10 per cent dividend increases which are taxable anyway — any spare money can be invested in government stock at 14 3/4 per cent return.

No risk; no worry; just sit back and draw the interest plus, in some cases, a fat premium on maturity or sale.

But the government still seems to feel that any rapid lowering of interest rates could lead to foreigners again moving their money out of London. While this may look like ex-

cessive caution, the government has a further complication which is surely even more worrying: Lower interest rates may make it difficult to attract sufficient funds to finance its own requirements.

It was this necessity which led to the recent spate of huge successful government securities offers. But the vast interest rates offered and premiums made success inevitable — if horribly expensive.

These high interest rates on such huge issues — in effect, borrowings both from the public and overseas; just more "hot" money — mean that from next April the U.K. Government must find a staggering £3,545 million to pay off accrued interest alone. Stocks due for redemption will take another £2,216 million.

The government has now sold enough gilt-edged stock to finance itself until April. But the worry must be that if interest rates fall it might then not be able to attract enough both to pay off interest on debts, re-finance its expenditure requirements.

The British national debt has already doubled in just six years. It could well double again in the next three. The only hope under present policy, to which the government is pinning all its faith, is that by then North Sea oil will be gushing ashore in sufficient quantity to

pay off interest on debt to the balance of payment position to a surplus and have even pay off some massive debts.

That is the hope. But all this is the hope. Total debts are so huge that North oil is already mortgaged into the future. Industrial production must also increase.

Most economists, most national bankers, would rather than play a clinical adjustments to unemployment and wait for the miracle the British people would be expected to find if the pound was allowed to fall.

That is already being imposed on Britain's economy by the world's markets although, many, far too slowly. If it rapped to something like figures then industrial output could rocket over. Combine that with incentives to workforce and there would be no need for any other. Inflation would be the rise in U.K. Gross Domestic Product would take the rest.

And such economic rig would be real; achieved, not financial juggling.

Justice at home

The establishment this month of Jordan's Department of Women's Affairs is a test and an important challenge. It is a test insofar as it is another opportunity for the country to translate high ideals into practical progress. The seminar on labour and women held here last spring closed with a list of resolutions both long and lovely. The test will be to bring reality from the resolutions.

It has been our experience — our sad experience, one must add — that good ideas too often get mangled in the bureaucratic mill of government offices. The women's department is far too important to follow the same path, and it is a refreshing sign to see the department being run by a director who has made it clear to one and all that bureaucratic red tape will not be allowed to stand in the way of programme implementation.

The women's department is a challenge on two levels. First, from the point of view of Jordan's burgeoning labour needs, any movement to help bring more women into the labour force will be a real contribution to the national welfare. Second, the women's department is a challenge because what it aims to do is right, and long overdue, in itself. This is to eliminate the artificial obstacles that society has erected in the path of girls and women who seek careers more glorious and more challenging in their scope than just cleaning the little bottoms of little children. If we can be judged as a society that allows its men and its women to seek the work and the fields of study that satisfy their own aspirations, then we shall be judged as a compassionate society.

The women's department will run up against the objections of both men and women who do not want Jordanian women to do anything but stay in the home. Its most difficult task will be to convince these people that it does not seek to send all women to work, but rather seeks to provide the opportunities for those women who do have visions of something more profound than a kitchen.

To talk of the "emancipation" or "liberation" of Jordanian women is tricky because these words imply an existing condition of bondage or servitude that is not completely true. It is also false to say that Jordanian women are "liberated" or "advanced" when they wear make-up or Western clothes. This is not necessarily the kind of progress we should seek, because it only sheds a local Arab uniform for an international uniform. A Jordanian woman who spends much money buying perfumes and imported shoes has not really made any progress beyond substituting the Western trappings of a restricted female role for the traditional Arab trappings.

If you give a refugee food, you have a well-fed refugee. If you give a housewife perfume, you have a perfumed housewife. No progress is made in the fundamental position in society of either the refugee or the housewife.

The women's department faces a monumental task. But it is monumentally important, and deserves the support and understanding of all Jordanian men and women who care about justice and fairness.

Britain's financial relief brings its own sticky problems

Britain's successful negotiations with the world banks to bring at least a temporary halt to the sterling crisis has brought fresh problems and once again the Treasury is involved in a delicate juggling act — with millions of pounds at stake.

By Gerry Butcher

The Financial Times, London After years of living in the financial slums it begins to look as though Britain could be in for a taste of the high life. The recent spate of encouraging news which began with the International Monetary Fund loan and continued with the agreed plan to fund the sterling balances — to say nothing of the improved balance of payments — did a lot to tone up the muscles of Britain's sickly sterling.

But all these happy tidings, more recently added to by the runaway success of government funding through the "gilt-edged" market, look like causing as much embarrassment to the U.K. Treasury as relief.

For the plain fact is that faced with this sudden and almost entirely unexpected run of good fortune after years of fighting grimly against disaster, the Treasury is showing every sign of being unable to cope with the situation.

More than a few international bankers and currency dealers have been commenting unkindly that Britain is handling its upswing every bit as clumsily as it did its recession.

For it is vital to remember that basically Britain's economy has changed very little. Its added financial strength has come from foreign loans — which one day will have to be repaid. Yet the Treasury hand in hand with its ally the Bank of

England has obviously taken the stand that sterling can prudently look the world in the face again — and can be manipulated to Britain's advantage without serious repercussions.

All the current signs are that the Treasury has decided to exercise control over interest rates, exchange rates and the money supply, all at the same time.

The IMF, however, has now effectively taken charge of Britain's money supply situation by laying down guidelines — even though some economists argue these are too moderate — within which the government must operate. That at least will provide some brake on public sector spending.

But that still leaves both interest and exchange rates, both of which can be made subject to tinkering.

Government strategy, since it became evident that the floating pound was largely waterlogged and sinking, was to let it sink, accepting the inevitable domestic inflation as the cost of making U.K. goods that much more competitive abroad.

With the looked-for upturn in world economy and low-priced British exports exceeding imports in volume terms, this policy was expected to lead to a consequent export-led recovery for Britain.

With the U.K.'s foreign reserves low, the government has so far shown no sign of wanting to change that policy.

So it has no great wish to see the pound rise in value too quickly; it may blunt that competitive edge British exporters enjoy.

In consequence currency dealers almost daily see signs that the Bank of England is moving into the money markets and selling pounds fast. This has the dual effect of building up those foreign reserves, and holding down the pound's value abroad.

This technical exercise is known as a "dirty float" because sterling is supposed to be a fully floating currency, allowed to find its own value on the free money markets of the world.

West Germany in particular is complaining bitterly, but it is partly because West Germany has its own problem in the reverse direction with an over-strong currency making its goods expensive in other countries.

The British people — if they really appreciated what was going on — would have more cause for complaint because as the pound rises in value less would be needed to pay for imports and that at least would check the domestic inflation rate which currently shows no sign of abating from its current annual 15 per cent.

A similar conflict is raging over interest rates. While Britain's pound sank in value, overseas bankers were understandably anxious to divest themselves of sterling in exchange for more stable money like marks or dollars.

As those foreign holders, mainly the old commonwealth countries and longstanding trading friends in Africa and the

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Only one Jordanian daily carried an editorial Friday. It dealt with Mr. Yitzhak Rabin's victory over Mr. Shimon Peres for the leadership of the Israeli Labour Party.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "He is not the Coming Messiah," says that Mr. Rabin's victory over Mr. Peres does not constitute an event of major political importance for the Arabs, nor would it have been any different had Mr. Peres won instead, since the Arabs are not taken in by the Israeli act of pretending that while one represents the "doves" the other represents the "hawks".

Both candidates adopt the same policy, the paper says. They both agree on the principle of keeping onto the occupied Arab territories and they both continue to deny any legitimate rights for the Palestinian people.

Also, their election campaigns focused mainly on how to deal with internal corruption and with the Israeli economic situation, the paper says. In spite of this similarity in their policies we have noticed, the paper adds, that some American political circles have interpreted Mr. Rabin's victory as a gain for the "moderate" viewpoint in Israel and Mr. Rabin, as if confirming that interpretation, declared following his nomination that the general elections will not be an obstacle to peace negotiations.

In trying to give that impression it would seem that

American political circles had wanted to portray Mr. Rabin's victory as a success for the Arabs, the paper says.

However, one should not forget that the coming elections were the main reason for the postponement of the date of the Geneva Middle East peace conference to at least four months. Mr. Rabin himself, was the spokesman for the Israeli authority which has placed enumerable obstacles in the way of convening the conference when he informed U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, and later U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, of Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands.

The only conclusion which the Arabs at present can be in no doubt about is that the Israeli desire for aggression is one, whether it is Mr. Rabin or Mr. Peres who holds the reins of authority in Israel, the paper says.

Perhaps one or the other might help bring the region more quickly to the brink of explosion but in any case neither of them is the "Coming Messiah" who will bring peace to the area and remedy past injustices, the paper says.

The only recourse for the Arabs resides in their power which they should develop to enable them to achieve peace, either through negotiations or by any other means, the paper concludes.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	9:20 Reportage
6:00 Quran	Channel 6
6:05 Children's programmes	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:30 English by television	7:45 Varieties
7:00 Time to remember	8:30 Get some in
8:00 News in Arabic	9:10 Saturday show
Channel 3	10:00 News in English
7:30 Family programme	10:15 Movie of the week
8:30 Arabic series	

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	14:10 Radio magazine
7:00 Morning melodies	14:30 Good vibrations
7:30 News	15:00 Concert hour
7:40 News reports	16:00 Old favourites
8:00 Sign off	16:30 Easy listening
10:00 Listeners choice	17:00 Jordan weekly
11:00 My kind of music	17:30 Pop session
11:30 Catch the words	18:00 News summary
11:45 Arab scientists	18:05 15 weekly
12:00 Pop session	18:15 Music
13:00 News summary	18:30 Varieties
13:05 Pop session	19:00 News
14:00 News	19:10 Music

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	College (25010)
Amman:	Raghdan (24771)
Fayez Jalouka (51012)	Irbid:
Farhan Qaqish (30699)	Ghazzawi
Irbid:	Zarga:
Abmad Bishtawi	Haditha
Kassem Khazza'leh	Palestine
Zarga:	Taxis:
Ghazi Roussan	Neel (44433)
Pharmacies:	Tariq (23024)
Amman:	Jerusalem (39655)
A. eueen (72861)	Ahram (63911)
Jabal Hussein (38410)	

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	ankfurt (Lufthansa)
7:55 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Beirut
8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	8:00 Aqaba
8:25 Muscat, Doha	8:00 Tabuk, Jeddah (SDI)
8:25 Kuwait	Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Karachi, Dubai	9:05 Rome (Alitalia)
8:50 Tehran	10:30 Cairo
9:50 Aqaba	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
10:30 Beirut	11:15 Damascus, Aleppo
11:35 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)	11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen
16:30 Aleppo, Damascus	12:00 London
17:00 Cairo	12:30 Rome, Paris
19:40 Beirut (MEA)	13:30 Jeddah (SDI)
19:50 London (BA)	18:45 Dhahran, Dubai
Departures:	20:35 Rawalpindi (BA)
6:20 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt	

BBC RADIO

GMT	13:15 Business and Industry
05:00 News; Press Review	13:30 An Anthology of British Chords
05:15 Letterbox	14:00 News
05:30 Music from Scotland	14:09 Book Choice
05:45 The World Today	14:15 First and Last
06:00 News; Press Review	14:30 Terry Wogan's LP Show-case
06:30 Bob Holness Requests	15:00 Radio Newsreel
07:00 News	15:15 Saturday Special
07:15 From the Weeklies	16:00 News; Commentary
07:30 Music from Scotland	16:15 Saturday Special
07:45 Letter from London	17:00 News Summary
07:55 A Musical Dictionary	17:02 Saturday Special
08:00 News; Reflections	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:15 Europa	18:00 News
08:30 Doritay Pepe	18:15 Radio Newsreel
09:00 News; Press Review	18:30 Theatre of the Air
09:15 The World Today	19:30 Doritay Pepe
09:30 Financial News	20:00 News; Commentary
09:45 Come to the Operetta	20:30 Just a Minute
10:15 Scotland '77	21:00 Money, Money, Money
10:30 Matthew on Music	21:15 Command Performance
11:00 News	21:40 Books and Writers
11:15 Europa	22:00 News
11:30 Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness	22:05 Music Now
12:00 Radio Newsreel	22:45 The Week in Wales
12:15 Take It or Leave It	23:00 News; Commentary
12:45 Sports Round-up	
13:00 News; Commentary	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	Stories, News Summary
03:00 The Breakfast Show	18:30 Country Music U.S.
to on the hour and 28 min.	19:00 News and Topical ports
06:30 after each hour.	19:15 Letters from Listeners
17:00 News	19:30 New York, New York
17:15 This Week	20:00 Special English: News Words and their uses
17:30 Press Conference USA	20:15 Music USA (feature)
18:00 Special English: News/ Words and their Stories. Feature: Short	21:00 News

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24891
Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36351-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najfeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 3

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41820
British Council	" 36142-3
French Cultural Centre	" 37000
Goethe Institute	" 41898
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 42308
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

مركز الصحافة

King Hussein's Silver Jubilee: An occasion for the whole nation

by Irene Ramadan
Special to the Jordan Times

On the anniversary, a national celebration and a historical event. The Silver Jubilee of H.M. King Hussein is all this at the time. And the Silver Jubilee is being actively prepared over the country.

These preparations are taking place at all levels, involving the public as well as the private sector. A Higher Committee for the Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the King's Accession to the Throne - which was formed under the chairmanship of Premier Mudar an. Also present in the committee are the ministers of Education, Information, Tourism, and Interior, the chief of the Royal Court, the commander-in-chief of the armed

forces, the governor of the Central Bank, the mayor of Amman and the head of Jordan Television.

The Jordan Times recently met Mr. Mohammad Said Abu Nawar, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Secretary General of the Higher Committee, who stated that the committee will plan and approve the various celebrations to be undertaken by both government agencies and the private sector.

A multitude of major activities will take place, starting with Independence and Army Day on May 25. Then each governorate and the main cities will have their special day of festivities.

Irbid June 16
Belqa June 25
Zarqa July 4
Karak July 14

Ma'an July 24
Amman Aug. 6
Aqaba Nov. 14

The day in Aqaba will have a double significance since Nov. 14 is King Hussein's birthday. The anniversary itself - Aug. 11 - will be celebrated mainly at the Sports City. The major event will be an address to the nation by King Hussein.

The whole country will celebrate the Silver Jubilee. Hundreds of events have been organised by the Higher Committee. Celebrations, to be announced, can be classified into eight categories: Governorates; youth; art and culture; information; the armed forces; projects and services; tourism and souvenirs; and inauguration of new services.

"These events show the perpetual relationship between the leader and the Jordanian people. It also expresses the importance and value of Jordan as a nation in Middle East affairs and its intelligent and effective participation in what is happening in the area. This will be focussed in all our activities during the celebrations, which will last until the end of the year," stated Mr. Abu Nawar.

The Higher Committee has also selected six slogans reflecting 25 years under King Hussein:

- 25 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTIONS
- FROM HISTORY TO THE FUTURE
- PROMISES OF COURAGEOUS ACTION
- WITH THE LEADER WITH CONFIDENCE AND HOPE
- COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP AND FAITHFUL PEOPLE
- ONE FAMILY AND A PIONEER LEADER



JUBILEE EMBLEM -- This design by Mohammad Al Zahrani was recently chosen as the official emblem of King Hussein's Silver Jubilee. Coloured green and white, it consists of an eagle, whose head is the Hashemite Royal Crown. Its heart is a profile of King Hussein crowned by a halo of 25 sunbeams.

Agreement reached on Jordanian, Syrian development objectives

AMMAN (JNA). — The Secretary General of the National Planning Council Dr. Tayseir Abdul Jaber has said that during a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Technical Committee for Planning and Development agreement was reached on identifying the long-term economic and social objectives for development in order to arrive at a joint strategy for planning and development in Jordan and Syria.

Dr. Abdul Jaber, who returned here from Damascus Wednesday after attending the committee meeting, added that the committee formulated joint guidelines to organise development projects in both countries. It was also agreed, he said, to exchange lists of local and international consultant firms whose services can be drawn by either of the two countries.

Part of the committee meeting took the form of a seminar in which two lectures were given on development planning in Jordan and Syria. A similar two-day seminar will be held in Amman March 18, and the next committee meeting is expected in Amman in early April.

Report on Wadi Seer palace dig submitted

AMMAN (JNA). — The cultural adviser at the French embassy here has submitted to the Director General of the Department of Antiquities Yacoub Oweiss a report on excavation and repair work which a French technical mission carried out at the ancient Iraq Al Amir palace near Wadi Seer during the past three months.

The excavations included the uncovering and clearing of rubble from inside the palace, a surveying operation, which attempted to re-enact construction, and a study of the possibility of repairing and rebuilding the Iraq Al Amir palace.

Mr. Oweiss said the French mission will resume work this year aided by a team including architects, a draftsman and an expert on the preservation of historic places.

U.S. military delegation arrives

AMMAN (JNA). — A United States military delegation arrived here Friday evening on a short visit at the invitation of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command.

Gen. Samuel F. Robinson and Col. Bobby G. Perry, forming the delegation, will visit a number of military training centres. They were received on arrival at the airport by the chief of staff's assistants for operations and intelligence and a number of officers.

The U.S. ambassador to Jordan, the military attache here and embassy staff were also present.

THE GOVERNORATES AND THE CITIES

Every governorate and main city will have a special celebration in charge of the jubilee celebrations. These committees are assisted by representatives from the Ministries of Education and Culture and Youth.

The celebrations will include marches, youth parades and performances. Streets and public places will be decorated with flags and memorials.

THE YOUTH SECTOR

Besides the special programmes for students all over the country, there will be: An official and popular celebration in Amman on Aug. 6. A sports parade in the Sports City on Aug. 11. A historical show. An exhibition of educational material in Jordan and its evolution during the last 25 years.

The publication of a book about educational methods in Jordan. Competitions between sports clubs. Sports awards bearing the jubilee emblem.

THE CULTURAL AND ART SECTOR

The Jordan Folklore Troupe will perform in Amman and the governorates. Other activities include: The participation of many Arab folk groups, as well as foreign theatrical companies and orchestras. Children's plays.

A painting exhibition. A show of authentic national costumes. A photographic exhibition. A children's book and poster exhibition. An exhibition of Jordanian books and books written about Jordan.

The publication of a study on literary activity in Jordan during the last 25 years. The organising of a pan-Arab cultural festival. Encouraging rewards for literary and artistic achievements.

THE INFORMATION SECTOR

The Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Information will collect all publications, photos and reports made for the Silver Jubilee.

Jordan Television will make several documentaries in cooperation with the British Broadcasting Corporation. On the history of Jordan and King Hussein; with French television on tourism in Jordan; Italian television on archaeology; and German television on development. Jordan Television will also make a film on the armed forces.

Several books and publications will be prepared: A pictorial souvenir book on the Silver Jubilee. A pictorial souvenir book on the history of Jordan. An English language book about Jordan's achievements in the last 25 years. Publications with colour photos on Jordan in English and French.

New pictures of the royal family. Publications, special issues and supplements in the local and foreign press.

Other items will include: An anthem for the jubilee. Special programmes on television. New recordings of Jordanian songs. Student competitions organised by radio, television and newspapers. Recitals given by several famous Arab singers.

THE ARMED FORCES SECTOR

- A reception in honour of the King will be given at the Sports City on May 24.
- A military parade in Amman on July 25. People born on Aug. 11, 1952 will have special seats near King Hussein at this parade.
- The armed forces will offer King Hussein a decoration in the form of precious stones. Each gem will symbolise one of the army units.
- A new military decoration.
- The army will invite civilians to visit its barracks.
- A sports festival, fireworks and the participation of the army band.
- Inauguration of the monument to the unknown soldier in Amman on Sept. 9.
- A documentary film on the armed forces.

THE PROJECTS AND SERVICES SECTOR

- The ministries will supervise the celebrations.
- Organisation of festivals at night in the various governorates.
- Festivals highlighting industry will be held all over the country.
- Industrial and agricultural exhibitions.
- A documentary book about Jordanian industry and agriculture.
- The industrial sector is invited to produce items related to the jubilee.

THE TOURISM AND SOUVENIRS SECTOR

- An airshow organised by Alia in cooperation with the air force and the Royal Aviation Academy.
- A festival of national costumes.
- A festival in Mo'ta to commemorate the Battle of Mo'ta, fought in the early Islamic period by Khaled Ibn Walid.
- Water-skiing festival in Aqaba.
- Issue of a special set of stamps.
- A new issue of gold, silver and bronze coins.
- Memorial medals and other souvenir items.
- A bronze medal with the profile of King Hussein on one side and the emblem of the jubilee on the reverse.
- Posters, T-shirts and craft items bearing the emblem.

INAUGURATION OF NEW SERVICES

- The Polytechnic Institute in Marka.
- The Princess Haya Institute of Teachers.
- A barracks in Zarqa.
- The King Talal Dam.
- The irrigation project in the Ghor.
- A ceramics factory.
- A weaving factory in Zarqa.
- The Chamber of Commerce building in Amman.
- The first stage in the phosphate project.
- The laying of the foundation-stone of the phosphate and cement factories.
- The rail link from Hatita to Aqaba.
- The Holiday Inn in Amman.
- The Ambassador Hotel in Amman.
- New air links to New York and Manila.
- A sea link between Aqaba and Suez.
- The Yarmouk University.
- The Central Bank in Irbid.
- Al Rahmah Hospital in Aqaba.
- The College of the Martyr Faisal in Karak.
- Al Hussein Thermal Station near Zarqa.

Home for delinquents to be established

AMMAN (JNA). — Director of Social Affairs Khaled Al Radaydeh Friday said that his department intends to establish a home for juvenile delinquents in Jordan based on the most up-to-date educational methods, so that efforts to care for teenagers are not spread among different institutions.

Mr. Radaydeh stated that the Social Affairs Department will apply both precautionary and treatment methods in caring for the juveniles. The precautionary method, he said, involves watching over the juveniles, studying their circumstances and ways of life in order to understand the causes of their delinquency, advising parents on their children's problems and eliminating illiteracy among them.

Mr. Radaydeh said treatment involves providing juveniles with food, health and social services, cultural programmes, social films, books and lectures. He said, 2,172 cases of juvenile delinquency had been recorded in 1976 against 2,387 cases in 1975, i.e. a reduction of 11 per cent over the year.

October 1976 exports jump 28/-; imports 67/-

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's exports in October 1976 increased by 28 per cent and imports by 67 per cent compared with those of the same month in 1975.

Figures released by the Department of statistics showed that Jordan's October exports amounted to JD 2,426,000 against JD 2,483,000 during the same period in 1975.

The most important exports -- whose value exceeded JD 50,000 -- were raw phosphates, tomatoes, medicine, cellulose and cigarettes.

At the same time, Jordan's imports amounted to JD 28,615,000 against JD 17,133,000 in October 1975.

The most important imports were meat, goats, baby milk powder, eggs, potatoes, broad beans, grapes, tea, wheat, rice, maize, sesame, biscuits, fodder, tobacco, cement, lubricating oil, medicine, perfumes, timber, textiles, clothing and glass.

PRINCE HASSAN CONGRATULATES KUWAITI EMIR

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, has sent a cable of congratulations to the Emir of Kuwait on the occasion of the Kuwaiti national day, observed Friday.

FOOD HEAD VISITS DESERT PROJECTS

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Agriculture Salah Jum'a, World Food Programme Executive Director Mr. Robinson and his assistant Friday visited bedouin settlement projects at Al Rashadiyah, Al Dissi, Tafleeh and Wadi Rum in the southern region of Jordan.

They inspected all the projects that are being carried out according to a plan agreed upon by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Programme.

Under Secretary at the ministry Said Ghazzawi was also present.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY WANTED

Engineering firm needs a secretary with good knowledge of English and French languages. Arabic language and shorthand advantageous. Please contact tel. 42787 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

The first AGM and election of the new committee will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at the British Embassy Club at 10.30 a.m. sharp. Coffee will be served from 10 a.m.

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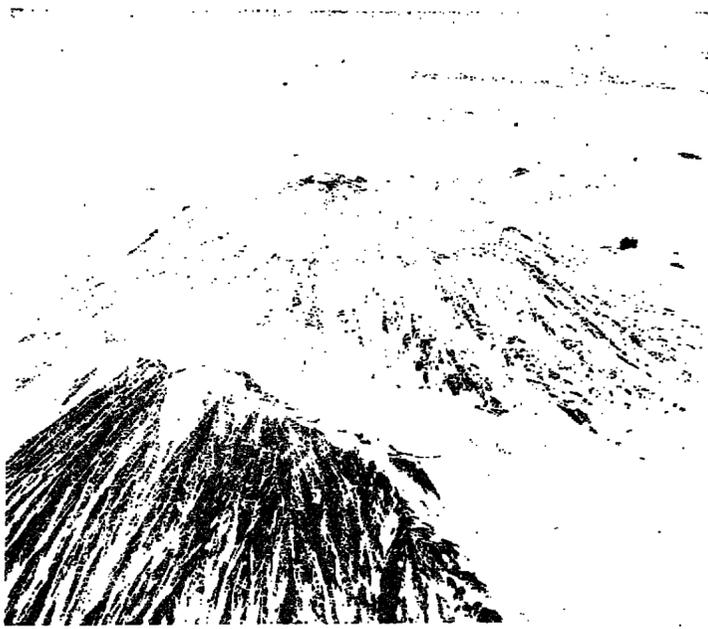
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Pioneers reveal Antarctica's miraculous treasures



Rugged face of Antarctic volcano Mt. Erebus -- more than 4000 m. high.

McMURDO STATION, ANTARCTICA (CSM) — Say Antarctica and most people think "snow and ice". But there is much more to this unique land than the stereotype embraces.

It has some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world: Rugged crumbling cliffs, brilliant white glacial roques lapping over black basaltic valleys, active volcanoes, an unfrozen salt water pond that holds a sculpture gallery of rocks eroded into weird forms.

Hugging the continent's rim is an abundance of marine life. Penguins cavort like thousands of miniature Charlie Chaplins. Seals with liquid eyes lie on the ice floes. The black, raking knife of a killer whale's dorsal fin slices through the water. And beneath the ice, the filtered light creates a cold, but enchanted blue world accented by scarlet starfish and pastel sea anemone.

Of course, there is ice in abundance -- 95 per cent of the freshwater ice in the world, as a matter of fact. There is not so much snow as one would think, but there are blizzards. Yet much of the continent is technically a desert because the precipitation is so low.

There are many different types of snow and ice. There is the shimmering fall of tiny ice crystals out of a clear blue sky at the South Pole. There is the undulating plain of the 10,000-foot-high polar plateau, which stretches to the horizon like a turbulent, frozen white

sea. There is the much flatter expanse of the Ross Ice Shelf, a floating slab of glacier 1,300 feet thick and the size of Spain.

Where wind, sea, and ice meet, nature creates intricate fantasies -- cotton-candy ice spirals and icicle necklaces. Where ice slams into ice with glacial pressures, blue-cold crevasses and stygian ice caves are formed.

Here the evidence of human activities still is dwarfed by the land. The coughing noise of diesel generators and the chop-chop of helicopters is swallowed by a primal stillness.

The harsh conditions put man's determination and machines to the test. And the Antarctic sun, which shines around the clock during the summer, pitilessly exposes any ugliness, any deterioration in the buildings, roads, supply dumps, and vehicles that people have brought to this land.

And of course, there are the people -- the scientists, the technicians, the support teams, the naval personnel -- who are exploring this unique continent. What are they like?

There does seem to be a common denominator of rugged individualism among those who come repeatedly to Antarctica, who enjoy its beauty and its challenge.

The desire to do things that other people have not done before them is written in their faces, their words, their actions.



Cave of ice -- formed when a crevasse froze over.

Antarctic land rights raise almighty fury



Claims to Antarctic overlap.

WASHINGTON D.C. (CSM). — Long-simmering controversy over territorial claims in the Antarctic flared anew just recently as Chilean President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte toured his country's zone on the ice-covered continent.

Foreign offices in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay reacted cautiously to the visit, but a number of officials protested privately, and newspaper comment was open and critical.

The Buenos Aires morning newspaper La Nacion called General Pinochet's trip "an act of territorial claim staking" and urged Argentine authorities to study its implications. They "should draw up a geopolitical evaluation of the case," it added.

Underlying the controversy is the expectation that the Antarctic possesses vast mineral potential, and no nation wants to be left out.

This was not the first time that Chilean moves in the Antarctic have drawn worried glances from Argentina. The two nations have long squabbled over their respective and overlapping claims to sizable chunks of the continent.

The recent visit by General Pinochet coincided with announcement of plans to construct a fourth Chilean base in

the Antarctic -- a facility to serve as an air and sea terminal and a scientific research station.

Planned for the Margarita Bay area between the Antarctic peninsula and Adelaide Island, it will be closer to the South Pole than Chile's other three facilities.

In addition to Argentina, the United States and the Soviet Union also have bases in the 482,000-square-mile area claimed by Chile.

The overlapping of the Argentine and Chilean claims covers the Antarctic Peninsula, which stretches north out of the main Antarctic land mass toward the island of Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America.

In some measure, the current Argentine-Chilean dispute over the Antarctic is an extension of older border controversies and particularly the disagreement between the two countries on the boundary line of Tierra del Fuego and navigational rights through the Beagle Channel off the island.

But these other disputes, some of which are currently under arbitration, take a back seat to the Antarctica controversy at the moment.

On several recent occasions the Chilean Foreign Ministry

categorically reaffirmed "the sovereignty of Chile in that sector of the Antarctic situated between the meridians longitude of 53 degrees and 90 degrees. The territories included in this sector form part of the national patrimony in virtue of historic, juridical and geographical titles."

Argentina claim: the area between the meridian longitudes of 25 and 74 degrees, an obvious overlap with Chile's claim.

"Argentina is always trying to chip away at our land," a spokesman for the Instituto Antartico Chileno said. "The Pinochet visit should remind Argentina that we own that land."

The dispute involves other countries as well. Britain's claim to Antarctic land overlaps both the Argentine and Chilean claims.

But both Argentina and Chile are worried by Brazil's increasing interest in Antarctica. It has sponsored several Antarctic expeditions, one of which took place within the past several months. Although its claims to Antarctica land were staked out rather recently, Brazil shows signs of pushing those claims energetically.

Uruguay has made similar overtures and has established an institute to study the region.



Taking a noon nap on an ice sheet.

Neither Brazil nor Uruguay signed a 1959 treaty that prohibits signatories from "acts or activities" that smack of claiming or exerting sovereignty over the continent until 1959. Both Argentina and Chile signed, as did 10 other countries -- all of which had claims or activity in the continent in 1959.



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Hudhud Shand, a major building and civil engineering contracting company with its head office in Amman, requires a secretary to work in their new offices adjacent to the British Embassy.

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GOREN BRIDGE

CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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ASK OMAR
Q.—In a recent pre-analyzed game, this hand turned-up:
♠ 107
♥ K 104
♦ Q 10974
♣ K 85
♠ A 82 ♠ QJ953
♥ A 82 ♥ 9
♦ K J 62 ♦ 8 5 3
♠ 10 9 7 ♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ K 6 4
♥ Q J 7 6 5 3
♦ A
♠ A J 2

The analyst commented that there was little to the play of a four heart contract. He is right, except with a trump lead. The contract can still be made, but it is by no means easy.—O. Feuer, Jamaica, N.Y.

A.—You are correct. In fact, my guess is that most declarers would go down in four hearts after a low trump lead. To make the contract, declarer must base the play on a series of advanced assumptions.

The first of these is that West probably has length in hearts—a lead of a singleton trump is unusual. Therefore, declarer should put in dummy's ten, and then immediately take the club finesse—he needs to know what happens in clubs to determine how he plays spades. When the club finesse wins, declarer can afford to lose two spade tricks. So he continues by leading a low spade towards dummy's ten. If the defenders win this and clear

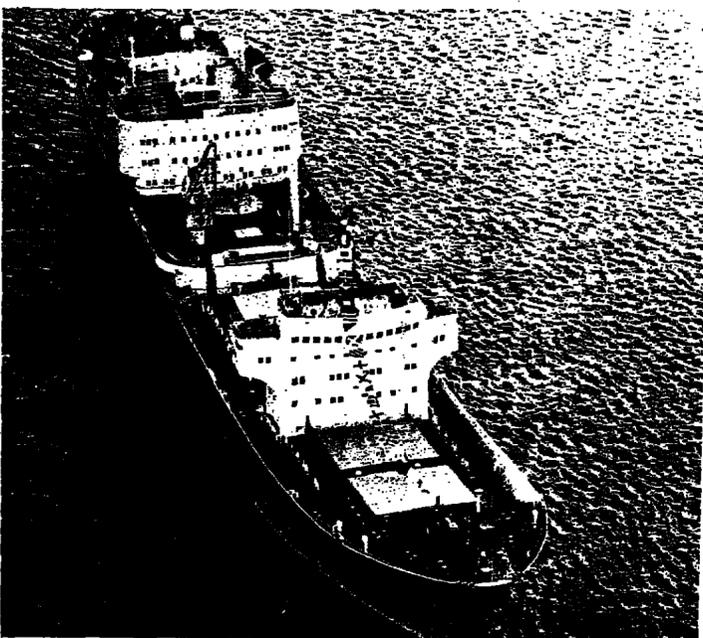
dummy's trump, declarer can still lead a spade to his king and make his contract if East holds the ace of spades.

The odd thing about this hand is that even with the spade ace offside and trumps splitting 3-1, declarer can't be prevented from ruffing a spade in dummy. All he has to do is cover whatever spade West plays. If West follows with the six, declarer inserts the seven from dummy.

East wins the nine, and has no effective return. If he leads a low spade, South ducks and West is forced to win the ace, establishing declarer's king as the game-

going trick. If East returns a high spade, declarer again ducks, and now West has no way of gaining the lead to clear two more rounds of trumps. As a result, declarer ends up ruffing his third spade on the board, and loses only two spades and the trump ace.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



GOING NUCLEAR — Otto Hahn, West Germany's nuclear ore freighter, reached a proud landmark recently. Since its maiden voyage in 1968, the freighter has logged half a million knots without mishap. This corresponds to 22 circumnavigations of the globe, yet the 10,000-ton freighter has used a mere 45 kg of uranium to ship roughly 650,000 tons of bulk cargo around the world. Its freight has included ores, coal, phosphates, cereals and fertilizer. The freighter is owned and operated by a Bonn government agency near Hamburg, that specializes in nuclear shipping.

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can accomplish a great deal if you make sure you use your best possible judgment and show others that you are also interested in them. Take time out to get out from under some confusion; this is now possible.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you have long talks with others you get good suggestions and can also be helpful to them for mutual betterment. Make sure reports are accurate. Take some time for social fun.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study financial papers so that you know better how to trend your own money dealings. Show that you are sensible in all that you do today. Don't take risks of any kind in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get all of your personal accounts and affairs in better order during the day and handle other duties well, too. Take time for short social visits. Evening should be spent at home quietly.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Have private talks with those who can assist you to improve conditions that are annoying to you. Then schedule your activities for the future. Find right answer to emotional problem during the day. Take it easy later.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Get into social pleasure early. Then concentrate on improving relationships with others. Contact good friends early for the hobbies you want to enjoy with them.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to think over how to improve your public image and career matters. Plan how to best settle that credit affair and then do so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have some fine ideas for the future so put them through. You have a fine prophetic insight that should be followed for good results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to get right into all those tasks you have set up and get them behind you. Know what it is that co-workers desire of you and try to please them. Make evening a happy one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Clarify the methods you will use to handle debts and collections early in the day. Think out how to have more harmony with mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get those duties done early that require your personal attention and look into every angle of such. Look about for the clothing that will improve your appearance. Avoid one who argues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can have a delightful time if you apply some of that artistic sense you possess to your entertainment. Show true affection for mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Give much attention to your home and try to please kin more. Evening is fine for home entertainment of good friends. Make arrangements early in the day so that all goes smoothly later.

GRAFFITI
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"Too bad you have to be left out of it, but I've been on a secret government assignment and my lips are sealed!"

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by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

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UMIC
JNGOE
LITAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: ALTAR CASTE TANKER NUANCE
Answer: No doubt you are! —SURE

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

MOVIE OF THE WEEK :
LOVE HAS MANY FACES
Cast: Lana Turner, Cliff Robertson, Hugh O'brian, Stefanie Powers
The marriage of Kit and Pete Janocek is foundering. It needs only a jolting experience to either bring them closer again or separate them forever.

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PEANUTS

YOU THINK YOU'RE DEPRESSED?
HOW ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER?
HE'S REALLY DEPRESSED!
HE JUST FOUND OUT HE'S TOO OLD TO ATTEND A MID-LIFE SEMINAR!

WORD PUZZLE

28. Issued
31. Olives
32. Gam
33. Shoemaker's tool
34. Again
37. Meadow grass
39. News service
40. Tidy
45. Field of endeavor
46. Wingless aphid

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. Adjective suffix
2. Ancestry
3. Hebrew lyre
4. Sawyer
5. Geraint's beloved
6. White
7. Entangle
8. Amazon catapocan
9. Presently
10. Ship
11. Recorded
12. Windmill sail
13. Ramp
14. Advocate
15. Unit of work
16. Networks
17. Expired
18. Shirt
19. Social dance
20. False god
21. Regarding
22. Pedicel
23. Modified plant life
24. Fictional dog
25. Daughter of Cadmus
26. Copy
27. Guido's second note

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THE FLINTSTONES

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SAV THESE MELONS ARE LIKE PEACHES—I'LL TAKE A HALF DOZEN!
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Sadat, Assad, Nimeiri to discuss tripartite unified command Sunday

CAIRO, Feb. 25 (R). — Presidents Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Jaafar Nimeiri of Sudan and Hafez Assad of Syria meet in Khartoum on Sunday to discuss a comprehensive political, military and economic coordination plan between the three countries.

The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram today said the tripartite summit would also discuss Sudan joining the Egyptian-Syrian Unified Political Command, formed last December to coordinate the policies of the two major Arab powers confronting Israel.

Egypt and Sudan are linked with a military pact which presidents Sadat and Nimeiri signed last July following the abortive coup in Sudan against President Nimeiri.

President Nimeiri had blamed Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of instigating and financing the attempted coup and closed Sudan's border with Libya.

The tripartite summit will be the first meeting between the three leaders since they met in Cairo's Arab summit, which convened last year and worked out a plan to end Lebanon's civil war.

Al-Ahram said Presidents Sadat and Assad would arrive at Khartoum aboard one plane on Sunday.

The paper said the summit would take place on Sunday and Monday after which a joint statement on its results would be simultaneously released in Khartoum, Cairo and Damascus.

Senate learns that Carter's definition of human rights subject to economic goals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AFP). — The Carter administration is seeking Congressional approval to cut military aid to countries regarded as having violated human rights.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance yesterday requested the cuts in aid to Argentina, Uruguay and Ethiopia as a result of

Senate confirms appointment of CIA director

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (R). — The U.S. Senate yesterday confirmed the appointment of Admiral Stansfield Turner, a senior NATO commander and a naval academy classmate of President Carter, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Admiral Turner was the president's second choice for the job. His first, former Kennedy aide Theodore Sorensen, asked for his name to be withdrawn in the face of strong opposition in Congress.

In a separate action, the Senate also approved Mr. Carter's nomination of Mr. Elliot Richardson, former Ambassador at Large and the president's Special Representative to the Law of the Sea conference.

Mr. Warren Christopher, a former Deputy Attorney General, was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State.

what he termed breaches of rights in those countries.

It was the first time the U.S. government had employed such an argument to request a cutback in aid to a given country.

But Mr. Vance, testifying before the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Aid, said the administration would not seek an automatic cutback for every country that it believes violates human rights.

He cited the case of South Korea, arguing the importance of continuing aid there for strategic purposes.

"We believe it would be a mistake to cut the required economic assistance despite the fact that we have a deep concern regarding the human rights situation."

"We must balance a political concern for human rights against economic or security goals," he said.

Sources at the State Department said the Carter administration was seeking to shave military aid to Argentina by more than half.

For the fiscal year 1978, the sources said, the president requested the aid be slashed to \$15 million from \$32 million scheduled by former President Gerald Ford.

The \$3 million in military aid slated for Uruguay, the sources added, would be reduced to nil, while economic assistance would drop to \$25,000 from \$220,000 previously budgeted.

For Ethiopia, the projected \$6 million in military aid would also be cancelled, but a \$10-million credit could be granted, the sources said.

Britain's Labour in quandary after by-election defeat

LONDON, Feb. 25 (R). — Britain's Labour government, now in a minority position in parliament because of a by-election defeat last night, met today to assess its legislation programme which is becoming increasingly bogged down.

The government, whose term of office does not run out for another two years, has given no indication that it is even considering calling an early general election.

But doubts have been widely expressed about whether it will run its full stretch, and many politicians say Prime Minister James Callaghan is looking for a possible opportune moment in the future to face the electorate and try to win more parliamentary seats.

Last night's by-election result left Labour with 314 seats against a combined opposition of 315.

Labour will have to rely even more on the support of smaller groups in parliament, and informed sources said the cabinet today was discussing whether to modify or even discard some of its more controversial legislation in order to survive.

The conservatives easily won the by-election last night in the Westminster district in the heart of London. The seat, traditionally a Conservative one had been vacant for some time since its previous holder Mr. Christopher Tugendhat became

a European Common Market commissioner.

Mr. Peter Brooke held the seat for the Conservatives with an increased majority, but the turnout was down to 39.6 per cent of the electorate from an already low 53.2 per cent at the 1974 general election.

Vance's Mideast visit settles Egypt, Israel oil dispute

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (R). — An Egyptian-Israeli dispute over oil drilling rights in the Gulf of Suez has been resolved and Amoco oil company has resumed operations under its contract with Egypt, the State Department said today.

Spokesman Frederick Brown said Secretary of State Cyrus Vance discussed the issue with officials in Egypt and Israel during his recent Middle East visit and the matter had been settled. He gave no details.

Before the 1967 Middle East war, Amoco signed a contract with Egypt to explore in the West Bank for oil. After occupying territory along the gulf, Israel challenged Egypt's claim and said the waters should be under its administration.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (AFP). — Foreign Ministry sources last night denied an American newspaper report that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) paid for Israeli intelligence operations in Africa. The Washington Post reported that the CIA paid Israel tens of millions of dollars to help it recruit a network of agents in recently independent African countries.

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (AFP). — Ivory Coast's President Felix Houphouet-Boigny says he intends to make new contacts with Israeli leaders following his "satisfactory encounter" with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Geneva some weeks ago. In an interview printed in the Tel Aviv paper Maariv today, Mr. Houphouet-Boigny said that after seeing Mr. Rabin, and his subsequent meetings with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and members of the Israel-Palestine peace delegation, he would be sending an envoy to Cairo to report on the progress of his contacts.

TUNIS, Feb. 25 (AFP). — Students at Tunis University went on strike today to protest against last Monday's police intervention on the campus, when a number of students were bodily expelled from the grounds for allegedly damaging university property. Tunisian Interior Minister Taher Belkhouja last night denied a report that six students had been killed in the clashes. The only casualties had been light ones, he claimed.

JAKARTA, Feb. 25 (R). — More than 350 people have been arrested on charges of attempting to set up an Islamic state in Indonesia, East Java Military Commander Maj. Gen. Wiratmaja was reported as saying today. The general was quoted as saying they were affiliated to a group called the Jihad (Holy War) Command and had pledged to form a Moslem state in Indonesia.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

SAUDI ARABIA TO STOP INVESTING ABROAD

TOKYO, Feb. 25 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia will not make further investments in Japan or any other country, a visiting Saudi Arabian official said last night. Mr. Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Kuwatir, Director of the Saudi Arabian government's Treasury and National Economy Research Bureau, also said investments made abroad so far by the oil-rich country would be withdrawn as soon as possible. Speaking at a press conference, he explained that Saudi Arabia would henceforth give priority to industrial development and construction of roads, harbours, schools and other important facilities at home, which would require enormous funds.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices were mixed in sluggish trading Friday on the New York stock exchange. The industrial average closed on a very slight gain (less than one point) but declines outnumbered advances at the bell by a wide margin (844 to 555).

Investors are still worried over rising interest rates and fears of resurgent inflation in the U.S. Most groups of shares closed on a mixed tone.

Airline and department store issues, however, were generally steady, along with paper and chemical shares. On the other hand, gold mine, steel, tyre and tobacco issues closed on a weaker note. Sony rose 3/8 to 9-5/8 in active trading while Honeywell climbed 1-1/8 to 46-3/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 933.43, a gain of 0.83 points; Transp at 221.31, a loss of 0.09; utilities at 104.96, a loss of 0.64. 17,610,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,020,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

End-account profit-taking and lack of interest made for an easier tendency Friday, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 3.8 at 398.5.

Short dated government bonds were steady to 3/16 harder on bear covering and small buying in anticipation of lower interest rates next week but longer loans were 1/8 easier, dealers added.

Equities were led lower by B.P. which lost 10p. Gold shares closed quietly mixed.

Falls of 4p to 6p were seen in Metal Box, Unilever, Beecham, Barclays Bank, Fisons and Glaxo. Others were a penny to 3p lower where changed.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$139.925/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

January figures give boost to anti-inflation drive in France

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (AFP). — The F-15 supersonic fighter is "a very successful aircraft" but its weapons system suffers from several deficiencies, according to U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown. Mr. Brown, who appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday to present his department's budget, said it would require five years to ready a new weapons system for the plane.

HONOLULU, Feb. 25 (R). — A Liberian oil tanker carrying 95,000 tons of crude oil exploded and sank in the Pacific Ocean, killing one of its 39 crew members, the U.S. Coastguard reported here. It said the Hawaiian Patriot sank about 360 miles west of Honolulu yesterday after a 100-foot crack opened its hull on Wednesday and poured an estimated 17,000 tons of oil into the sea. The leaking oil ignited and the crew abandoned ship to be picked up by the freighter Philippine Bataan.

NEW DELHI, Feb. 25 (AFP). — India and Iran signed today an agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The agreement provides for the exchange of scientific information, scientists and technicians. The President of the Iran Atomic Energy Organisation, Dr. Akbar Etemad, said afterwards that Iran planned to use nuclear energy for power generation.

PARIS, Feb. 25 (R). — Prime Minister Raymond Barre yesterday announced that France's retail price index in January rose by just 0.3 per cent, the same low inflation figure as the previous month.

The announcement provided a boost to the government's anti-inflation programme, which is under attack by the leftwing opposition and trade unions.

The government ended a three-month freeze on prices at the end of last year.

M. Barre said the smallness of the January rise was due to the government's cut in the standard rate of value-added tax (VAT) from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent on Jan. 1, a move designed to counter renewed pressure for price increases after the freeze.

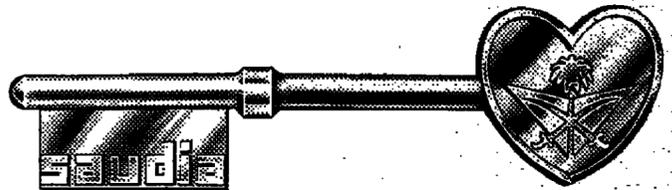
The prime minister told reporters the January movement in the price index confirmed that industrialists and traders had passed on the VAT cut to customers.

The 0.3 per cent figure gives France an inflation rate of just over nine per cent in the past 12 months.

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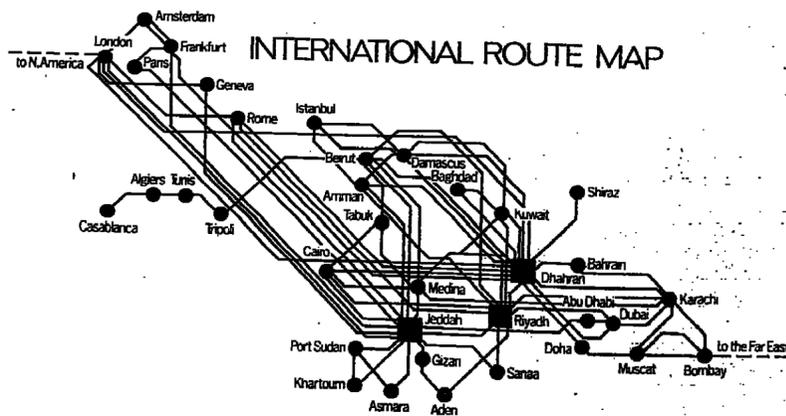
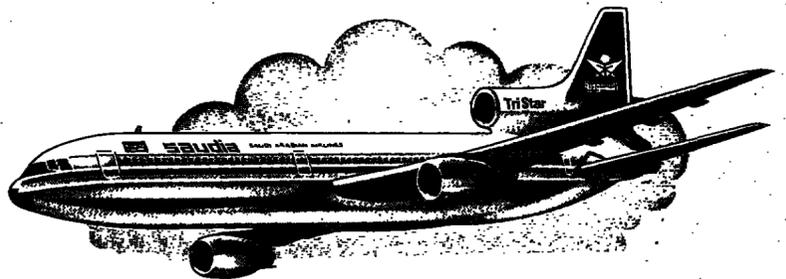
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